

JAMES WILLIAM IRELAND

DIED APRIL 17, 1912

Littleton mourns the loss of another prominent and highly respected citizen in the death of James William Ireland, of the well-known firm of Thacher & Ireland, which occurred at his home on Harwood avenue at 8.40 o'clock Wednesday evening, April 17. Mr. Ireland had been suffering from serious heart trouble for more than a year and a half. Everything known to medical skill had been done for his comfort and recovery. His family, too, had watched over him and given him every attention that love and intelligence could prompt.

Although he realized his condition and knew that his days were numbered, he insisted on attending daily to business at the store. He went home, as usual, at 5.30 o'clock Wednesday evening, ate lightly, sat in his easy chair, read the paper, and fell asleep. At 8.40 in the evening as he sat quietly resting in his Morris chair, his devoted wife and children near, the end came without struggle and almost without warning.

The funeral services will be held from his late home at 1.30 o'clock this afternoon. From one p. m. to four p. m. the Thacher & Ireland stores and probably other places of business in town will be closed.

James William Ireland was born in Wilmington, June 16, 1862. His age, therefore, was 49 yrs. 10 mons. and one day. When a young lad he moved with his parents and the other children to Littleton, which has ever since been his home. He attended the public schools of this town and afterwards pursued a business course in Worcester. While still in the teens Mr. Ireland began the business of his life as an employe of A. W. and W. H. Sawyer, grocers, at West Littleton, in which capacity he served for ten or twelve years. He proved his fitness for that position by his faithfulness and competency as clerk and unusual ability as an accountant.

In July, 1890, the deceased entered into partnership with Josiah P. Thacher, then a clerk at Conant Co.'s store at West Littleton, under the firm name of Thacher & Ireland. Into his own business he carried the same exemplary principles that had previously characterized him—system, promptness, precision, courtesy, strict integrity and honor.

To that of business he added an estimable public career. For many years he was a member of the board of selectmen, assessors and overseers of the poor, holding the office of chairman two years, at least. His interest and loyalty to town affairs were beyond criticism. He has many times served on the republican town committee, formerly as chairman, and the present year as secretary and treasurer.

Business and civic affairs did not, however, monopolize his time and activities. He possessed a keen sense of the demands of his soul, and his belief in the church and the uplifting influence of its organizations was manifested in his practice of regular church attendance and active employment in its service. Many years he held the office of church treasurer, and represented it in the Back-log club. At the time of Rev. John Maleck's resignation as pastor of the Unitarian church and departure from town, Mr. Ireland, then vice-president of the Back-log society, filled out the unexpired term as president.

His loyalty was also felt in the Nashobah lodge of Oddfellows; the Caleb Butler lodge of Masons and the Eastern Star.

Although Mr. Ireland's interests reached out in many directions, his highest devotion was to his home and family, and it was there that most of his time was spent, after he left the store. A most indulgent husband and father, he was ever prompt and happy in furnishing whatever might add to the comfort and joys of his household. As friend and neighbor he was always ready to do a kind deed and a generous act. By all who knew him his memory will ever be cherished and his name enrolled on the tablet of the pure and undefiled, the upright, courageous and the truly just.

Mr. Ireland was married June 20, 1883, to Miss Ada H. Whitcomb of this town. To them were born four children—Mary B., who is now Mrs. G. Frank Hibbard of Ayer; Harry W., who helps conduct his father's business; Rachel and James William, jr., at home. Besides these he leaves a granddaughter, three sisters—Mrs. George A. Edwards and Mrs. Arthur Stevens, both of Salem, and Mrs. Elmer Hendley of Pepperell, and three brothers—John W. of Concord, Willard F. of Lowell and George H. of Somerville.

MISS ADA H. WHITCOMB WAS THE DAUGHTER
OF NAHUM AND MARY (SPRAGUE) WHITCOMB